



**STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL
PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

LEEKFRITH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DECISION STATEMENT

This Decision Statement is published pursuant to Section 38(A) of Part 3 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Following a positive referendum result, under Section 38A (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (under delegated powers on 30th June 2021) and the Peak District National Park Authority (at a meeting of the Planning Committee on 11th June 2021) resolved to make the Leekfrith Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.2 The Leekfrith Neighbourhood Plan now forms part of the Development Plans for Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and the Peak District National Park Authority.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (on 24 March 2015) and the Peak District National Park Authority (on 13 March 2015) designated the area comprising the Parish of Leekfrith as a Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.2 Following submission by Leekfrith Parish Council of the draft Leekfrith Neighbourhood Plan to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and the Peak District National Park Authority, the plan was publicised and representations were invited. The publicity period ended on 23 September 2019.
- 2.3 In November 2019, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and the Peak District National Park Authority, with the agreement of Leekfrith Parish Council, appointed an independent Examiner, Mr Chris Collison, to review whether the plan met the Basic Conditions required by legislation and should proceed to referendum.

- 2.4 The Examiner's report was received on 23 December 2019 and was made available for viewing on the Councils' websites. The Examiner concluded that the Leekfrith Neighbourhood Plan, as modified by his recommendations, met the Basic Conditions set out in the legislation.
- 2.5 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (on 11 February 2020) and the Peak District National Park Authority (on 6 March 2020) considered the Examiner's report and: determined that the modifications recommended by the Examiner be accepted; confirmed their satisfaction that the Leekfrith Neighbourhood Plan meets Basic Conditions, is compatible with Convention rights, complies with the definition of a Neighbourhood Development Plan and the provisions that can be made by a Neighbourhood Plan; and determined that the Plan should proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning referendum.
- 2.6 A referendum asking 'Do you want Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and the Peak District National Park Authority to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Leekfrith to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area' took place on 6 May 2021. Over 50% of people voting said 'yes'. One hundred (100) people voted 'yes' and seventeen (17) voted 'no'.
- 2.7 Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the planning authorities to "make" (adopt) the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting in a referendum upon the plan have voted in favour of the plan being used to help decide planning applications in the area. The authorities are not subject to this duty if the making of the plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

3.0 Decision and Reasons

- 3.1 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (under delegated powers on 30th June 2021) and the Peak District National Park Authority (at a meeting of the Planning Committee on 11th June 2021) resolved to make the Leekfrith Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.2 The reasons for this decision are that the Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions and its preparation and promotion complied with legal and procedural requirements. Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Councils to make the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting in a referendum upon the plan have voted in favour of the plan being used to help decide planning applications in the area. The plan was endorsed by a majority yes vote in the referendum held on 6 May 2021.

4.0 The Decision Statement

- 4.1 This Decision Statement can be inspected on the Councils' websites.
- 4.2 A copy of this Decision Statement is being sent to:

- The qualifying body, namely Leekfrith Parish Council.
- Any person who asked to be notified of the decision.
- Individuals and organisations that responded to the consultation

5.0 The Neighbourhood Plan

5.1 Leekfrith Neighbourhood Plan and its associated documents are available to view on the Councils' websites at:

[Leekfrith Neighbourhood Plan - Staffordshire Moorlands District Council \(staffsmoorlands.gov.uk\)](http://staffsmoorlands.gov.uk)

[Leekfrith Neighbourhood Plan: Peak District National Park](#)